Blood samples of the Bhopal Gas Victims

5830. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that blood samples of victims of Bhopal gas leak disaster have got destroyed, as reported in the 'Indian Express' of August 30, 1993;

(b) whether it is also a fact that with the destruction of these blood samples the crucial evidence against Carbide has been lost; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, a power failure took place in January, 1985 in one of the 3 Deep Freezers, where some blood tissues were kept. These tissues get decomposed. There will, however, be no adverse impact on the victims of Bhopal Gas Disaster in respect of clinical and legal aspects, as the other tissues kept in formalin and other freezers, and blood samples, are safe and are still well preserved.

Growth of Petrochemical Industry

5831. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTLIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether high priority is being accorded by the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers for the growth of petrochemical industry;

(b) whether any long terms plan has drawn up thereon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Yes, the Government is giving high priority to the growth of petrochemical industry in the country. The per capita consumption of major petrochemicals mainly plastics and synthetic fibres is low as compared to the world average for these products. Major reforms have been undertaken from 1991 in the areas of Trade Policy, Industrial Policy and Fiscal policy. Customs policy to duty rates of most products have been reduced and are likely to be brought down further by 1996-97 to make the industry more competitive. Except for a brief list of hazardous chemicals, all petrochemical items can be manufactured without requiring any industrial licencing controls.

Subsidy to a SSP manufacturer on bogus sales

5832. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Revenue Department have unearthed a case where a single super phosphate (SSP) manufacturer has claimed huge amount of subsidy on the basis of bogus sales, as reported in the 'Economic Times' of 10th April, 1994;

(b) if so, what are the facts of the case;

(c) how do the Department satisfy themselves about the correctness of the figures of sales before releasing the subsidy amount;

(d) how many such cases were detected by the Department during the last three years and what was the amount involved; and

(e) what steps have been taken by the Department or propose to take to